

Ley's News

delivered free to your door

***Blackbird Leys
looking back***

launched on
on page 7

BLITZ news

Dealing with
bailiffs

**A tribute to
Agnes**

Eating flowers
with
Greenfingers

Youth centre
plugs music

**Scrambled
names
competition**

Where on earth is
*Sprirllleblly
Close?*

see page 4



UP, UP AND AWAY: children and adults alike celebrate 10 years at Cuddesdon Corner. See page 8 for the full story of Blackbird Leys' family centre.

Leys News

Leys News has been published quarterly since 1996. **Leys News** is a company limited by guarantee, it is a not for profit community business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community.

Leys News is not affiliated to any political party.

Leys News operates an equal opportunities policy and encourages any resident to get involved in its work.

How to get in touch:

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Who's who?

Board of Directors

Molly Florey - *Chair*, Penny Wood - *Secretary*,
Audrey Chamberlain, Enid Foster
Tom Golcher, Stuart Mabbutt. Colin Minto,
Roy Simmonds, Jasper Smith, Wendy Spray and
Peter Stevenson.

Editorial committee this issue

Molly Florey, Jo Stannard, Patsy Spencer,
Becky Willis, Roy Simmonds and Al Cane.

Editor and development worker: Al Cane

Office administration and support: Jo Stannard

Distribution co-ordinator: Ian Fieldwick

Website development: Julia Sutton

We're growing

The Leys News board of directors have taken the decision to increase the frequency of publication from four to six a year. From March the paper will appear every two months. This will allow for more continuity and a more up to date response to what's happening on the Leys.

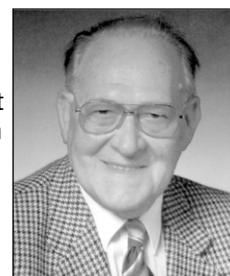
As well as this Leys News will be producing a *Leys Bulletin*, a what's on page which will come out between issues. Community groups can get a free listing. Call **Leys News** by Wednesday 15 January to get information. The first issue of the Leys Bulletin will appear at the end of January and will be distributed to community and public places across the Leys.

Breakthrough on the Green

From early December the two City Councillors for Northfield Brook, Molly Florey and Stuart Craft will be holding regular Saturday morning surgeries at Kingfisher Green. For precise dates and times please see the councillors information on page 15. The community building at 26 Kingfisher Green is home to **Leys News** and the Leys Residents Association. The building was brought to life, having been a derelict shell for several years, as one of the main projects within the Leys Linx regeneration programme.

Stan Berridge 1924 - 2002

As the last issue of **Leys News** was going to print the sad news came that Stan Berridge had passed away. Stan was an activist who on becoming a council tenant joined the Cowley Airfield Residents Association, which led to his involvement in the Neighbourhood Tenants Forum (as chair of both). He represented Blackbird Leys and Cowley Airfield at the Oxford Federation of Tenants Association (OFTA) and for a time was chair and more recently treasurer. In January of this year Oxford Building Solutions (formerly City Works) honoured Stan by naming their new call centre after him. He was very proud of this and the story featured in the local press. Stan was a clever and wise person and will be greatly missed. Jenny Clamp, currently chair of the Blackbird Leys Tower Blocks Association, says of Stan, "Not only have we lost a very willing tenants rep, but I have also lost a great friend."



Crime is coming down

According to the latest statistics incidences of recorded crime on the Leys have fallen by 26% compared to the year before. Surely this is good news for everyone.

The detection rate is also slightly up and some prolific offenders from the estate have been given custodial sentences. According to Sergeant Steve Redding at Cowley Police Station police raids on houses have recovered about £ 25,000 street value of controlled drugs. Four houses have been raided for drug dealing in the last few weeks, resulting in arrests and the detention of seven illegal immigrants, six of whom were involved in drug dealing. There was a rise in the number of street robberies over the summer, this may be due to the increase in foreign students on the estate.

The local beat officers are continuing to hold drop in surgeries at the Clockhouse on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4, but there are sometimes days when they cannot be there because of other commitments. The cycling officers seen buzzing around locally are part of a welcome scheme to increase police presence on the streets. They are able to respond quicker around the estate. The initiative may be extended but as with all these schemes it is dependent on funding.

The next issue of Leys News will be coming out in early March. Copy and ad deadline Monday 10 February



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LEISURELY TIME AHEAD?

Plans for the next stage of the development of the Kassam Stadium and the surrounding leisure complex are well advanced. Local residents recently had the opportunity to look at the drawings and raise questions with Firoz Kassam at the newly refurbished "Priory and ?" No, that's not a joke that is its current name.

There will be three restaurants, a bingo centre, a health and fitness centre, a bowling alley, the Oxford United shop and a nine screen multiplex cinema.

It will be a seven day a week operation. All are scheduled to be open within the next 12 months. When asked by **Leys News** about the parking situation Mr Kassam said that plenty of provision had been made and that the scheme will create many local jobs. Chris Hatton, a member of Blackbird Leys Parish Council said that he was concerned about the protection of the wildlife in Spindleberry Park and the environmental impact of the whole development.

Leys News

acknowledges financial assistance from

Oxford City Council

Ealing Family Housing Association

Oxford Citizens Housing Association

Blackbird Leys Parish Council

the Oxfordshire Community Foundation

and support in kind from
Newsquest (Oxfordshire) Ltd.
Business Boffins Ltd.



CMS Bar one year on

Membership of the CMS Bar social club at the Community Centre is fast approaching 600, a great community response to a new beginning for the club. Membership renewals are due in January. Since taking over the lease of the bar a year ago the CMS Consortium (Community Managed Sevices) has decorated the bar, installed a big screen tv for sports, and opened up the kitchen from where they now offer good food four days a week. There is a new pool table and competitions are being organised.

Highlights of the last year include the very successful multicultural day held in August and the appearance of local band the Inflatables in October. The recent bonfire and fireworks party attracted 150 people. It was partly funded by a contribution from the monthly fashion show.

Joe Obhiozele, manager, said that the club is applying for a late licence on Fridays and Saturdays, so that the club can remain open until 2am. There are plans to refurbish another community room in the centre so that other activities can happen there.

Forthcoming attractions include:

- Christmas day opening, with food, drink, music and entertainment until midnight.
- ticket only New Year's Eve party for club members until 3am.
- DJ Col will be the centrepiece of family discos every three month, the next one will be towards the end of January.



Toni Parchment, the new chef at the community centre serves up delicious food in the daytime on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Toni, who lives locally, was previously a cook at Headington Middle School. The menu is varied, from fresh baguettes with a variety of fillings, to chicken curry, to hot dogs and chips, not forgetting doughnuts.

Toni also offers a private catering service and can be contacted through the bar on 777152.

BLITZ news

'A vital resource'. Very helpful'

Blackbird Leys Information Technology Zone based at the Community Centre

Beginnings

Over 50 people came along to the launch on Saturday 28 September and they enjoyed a range of activities from contacting relatives abroad to scanning and playing games.

Internet access is now available on all ten of the machines at the hub. If you have never used the Internet or sent an email before we will be happy to give a hand and show you any of the millions of exciting websites out there.

Web design club starts on Thursday evenings in December with Jim and Pat from the Advice Centre. The plan is to create a Blackbird Leys website and have links to members own websites. Blitz has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and people can come along every week.

Beginners courses have started on Wednesday and Thursday daytimes. There will be another five week course starting in January.

Family History sessions are coming soon. Anyone who is interested can call for times and dates, which are yet to be arranged.

Volunteers are wanted to help with the running of the hub. Anyone who can spare a few hours daytime or evening will be provided with full training and ongoing support.

Goodbye Hello

BLITZ said goodbye to Rick Russell who left in September. We wish him all the best in the future, he will be missed. A big welcome to Mike Kelly, the new project support worker, who brings with him lots of technical knowledge and experience. Mike aims to bring access for everybody, whatever their needs, by using specialist equipment, and home visits for people who find it difficult to get around.

One person who came into the hub a month ago felt afraid of computers but is now an enthusiastic and competent user.

BLITZ

festive openings and closings

Open Mon 23 Dec 9.30 - 1pm

Closed Tues 24 Dec

Open 30 & 31 Dec 9.30 - 2pm

Closed New Year's Day and the rest of the week

Re-opening Monday 6 January when Blitz is back to normal opening hours which are:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 to 4.30

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30-6.30

Saturday 9.30 to 1.30

Phone 714492

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In case you have not heard **BLITZ** is the Blackbird Leys Information Technology Zone

UK online centres

18 Centres across Blackbird Leys
that offer you access to and training on computers

World Wide What?

everyone has heard of the internet and the wwws seem to be everywhere. If you have never used a computer before you can come to one of the BLITZ centres and someone will be able to show you how to use this marvellous resource.

for more information please call us
on 714492

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Editorial

As 2002 comes towards its end, it's time to look back, reflect and then look forward for the Leys. Many steps have been taken towards the consolidation of Blackbird Leys Community Centre, including the opening of the Leys Linx centre, a new home for the Credit Union, the opening of the Blitz computer project, lively and vibrant youth projects and the rebirth and subsequent growth of the social club.

Then there's the settling in of Oxford United at the Kassam Stadium. We wish them well on the climb back to success, although the complex is not without some problems for local residents, which are still to be sorted out. We understand that increased car parking facilities are on the way alongside the imminent development of the rest of the leisure complex at the stadium which will bring welcome new recreational facilities, new jobs, more people, and of course more traffic. We will keep an eye on the environmental impact of the whole project and its effect on nearby residents.

Two years on and still no-one has been charged with the killing of Ross Doyle. Why? Some of the

community rallied round to create a permanent memorial to Ross at the spot where he was knocked down on Pegasus Road.

Speaking of memorials we think it is a fitting tribute to the memory of Agnes Smith that the advice centre that she managed and devoted her working life to is now named after her.

Crime figures have fallen according to the latest statistics, which is good news, but tell that to the person who was burgled last week and they might not be so impressed. We are promised a whole raft of new initiatives to counter crime, drugs, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, let's hope they deliver half of what they promise.

Meanwhile here at *Leys News* we are pleased to tell our readers that from the next issue this paper will be coming out bi-monthly, that is six times a year. We encourage all residents of the Leys to think about contributing to our social history project *Blackbird Leys - looking back*, or to get involved in other ways, by writing us letters, sending emails or even joining our editorial team and telling us what you'd like to see in your local paper.

Seasonal greetings to all our readers and a peaceful and trouble free 2003 all round.

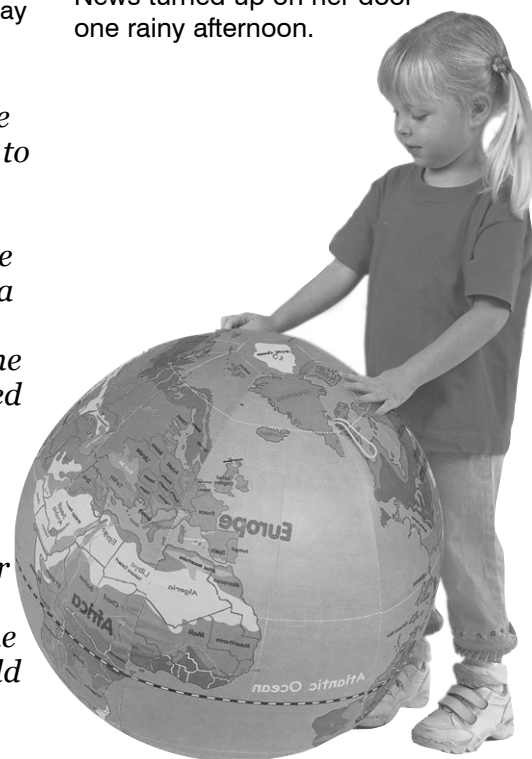
We're giving the world away!

This issue's competition is a name scramble.

We ran the names of local streets through the Leys News scanner and they came out quite jumbled up. In the piece below you will find 12 scrambled up names, write down as many of the proper names as you can. Send them to us at Leys News (address on page 2) before the end of January, and you may be the winner of this inflatable globe. Have fun and good luck.

Walking along Meflin Rood one day, John decided not to go on to Btwnbling Way, but instead to look up a friend in Kestjell Clescslll. But before he got there he remembered he had to post a letter through a door in Sprirllleblly Close. After that he wandered about until he crossed Noughtfilled Brrok and found himself in Choosewill Sprung, close by Woodpeckero Grin. Meanwhile over in Strawbaty Paddl, Rose wondered whether to go to the palace, Prinwose Palace that is, but in the end she decided to go to Watjinglor Rold to catch a bus into town. On the way she tripped over a Pottery Plaice and fell headfirst into the Cotton Graze.

Congratulations to Zoe Denton, the winner of our 'Spot the Difference' competition in the last issue, whose correct entry was picked from a hat. She was pleasantly surprised to receive a Le Clic camera when Leys News turned up on her door one rainy afternoon.



PATHWAY WORKSHOP

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Blackbird Bonanza

Thank you to all who visited our stall at The Leys Fair. We raised the total sum of £98.25 for Pathway Workshop. Thank you also to all those people who entered our "Balloon Race". The winning ticket that was returned within the time limit, was found near Newbury, Berkshire. Congratulations to our winner, who won a £25.00 gift voucher.

News News News News News

In September Shepherds Hill Pre-school were our lucky winners of the Blackbird Bonanza Estate Kitty and received a cheque for £300. This was put to good use in buying the children a new "Wendy House" as theirs was vandalised recently.

If you know of a club, organisation or a child (0-16 years old) with disabilities on Blackbird Leys in need of some extra cash, please send your nominations in the form of a letter, either by 28th February for a March draw or 31st August for a September draw. All nominations will be read and carefully selected to enter the draw. The nominations **must come from a Bonanza Member** and you must put your Lucky Number on your nomination letter. The Bonanza Co-ordinator will notify the winner as soon as the draw has taken place. The Blackbird Bonanza reserves the right not to put a nomination into the draw that does not have a Lucky Bonanza Number. All numbers will be checked against the name and address.

Please send your entries to the address below marked

Blackbird Bonanza - Estate Kitty.

For further information please contact the Co-ordinator on Oxford 423023 or the Pathway Workshop Oxford 714111.

Pathway Workshop, Dunnock Way, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 7EX

Good advice from your local advice centre

Dealing with a bailiff at the door.....

If you cannot pay your debts, you may find yourself in the unfortunate position of being visited at home by bailiffs. This article gives some information about your rights in this situation, and how to avoid it arising in the first place. It is always best to seek advice from an advice centre, CAB or solicitor as soon as possible.

Bailiffs who have authority from a competent court have the right to peacefully enter premises to seize goods, whether with the consent of a person inside, or through an open door or window. Once a bailiff has obtained entry, he or she will often seek to take 'walking possession' of goods inside. Once this has been done, a bailiff can return and can force entry if necessary in order to seize goods.

With rare exceptions involving collection of money owed to the Inland Revenue or Customs and Excise, bailiffs do not have the right to force entry to anyone's home unless they have previously gained access to the property. However, goods left outside the home, such as cars, could still be taken.

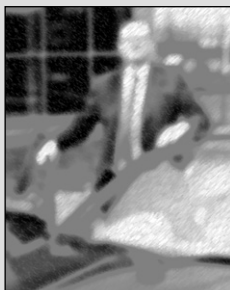
In some instances, the bailiffs may ask the police to accompany them if they are worried that they may encounter violence. Police attendance is very rare and is to prevent a breach of the peace from either side, not to help the bailiff seize goods.

Recent cases show that bailiffs are now attending premises and finding out what items you have in your home merely by asking you at the door without going inside. They then ask the person to sign their document. If you sign this document you are agreeing that they have placed a levy on those items. If this happens they can, if they come back, enter your premises and you cannot refuse them entry. If you have not let the bailiff into your home do not tell him what you have in there and do not sign the document giving them further access. Immediately seek help and advice.

A CASE SCENARIO

A bailiff calls on Mrs X, who does not let the bailiffs in but discusses the matter on the doorstep. The bailiff asks Mrs X if she has a television and what make it is, Mrs X confirms she has a Granada TV, she also confirms she has a video a hifi and other items in the sitting room. The bailiff lists all these items and then asks Mrs X to sign his document, which she does. Mrs X has now given walking possession, which will be difficult

to argue with as she has signed the document. As a result, if he comes back she cannot refuse him entry to remove the goods.



This is also happening in cases where a person has one outstanding warrant that the bailiffs have gained access for. They then list the same items on the second warrant and again asks the tenant to sign the document giving walking possession.

DO NOT sign documents where a bailiff has not gained access to your home and where possible do not let them in. ALWAYS SEEK ADVICE.

MAGISTRATES COURT FINES

If you are convicted of a criminal offence and are likely to be fined, you should give the court details of your income and expenditure. The magistrates will take this into account, both in the amount of the fine imposed, and in the rate of repayments ordered.

If you do not pay the fine and do not keep in touch with the magistrates' court, a warrant will be sent to a private firm of bailiffs. If this happens, you should still write to the court giving the reasons why you need time to pay. You can ask for a means enquiry at which the magistrates will consider your income and how much you can afford to pay.

COUNCIL TAX

Oxford City Council uses private bailiffs to enforce these debts. You can contact the City Council's offices to make an arrangement to pay the debt. If you have more than one debt seek advice from a CAB or other advice agency.

PARKING TICKETS

These are enforced by a private firm of certificated bailiffs. If you receive a notice from the bailiffs and cannot pay the amount demanded, you should seek advice. You can ask for time to pay.

Some items will not be seized by bailiffs. These include clothing, beds, bedding and work tools.

CODE OF PRACTICE

There is a bailiffs code of practice. Unfortunately, at the moment it is not compulsory.

For further help call the Citizens Advice Bureau, a solicitor or the Agnes Smith Advice Centre on 770206.

Agnes Smith

1956 - 2002



Agnes Smith was the manager of Blackbird Leys Advice Centre, money advisor, member of the national committee of the Money Advice Association, trustee of the Alice Smith Fund, member of Oxford Federation of Advice Workers, friend and colleague.

Agnes was a true friend to everyone she knew and was always ready to lend a hand and provide comfort to those people who needed it. Agnes always provided support, when and where it was most needed, despite her own personal problems and ill health.

Agnes' heart was one of complete compassion and anyone who knew her had a healthy and high respect for her as a person, money advisor, advocate and friend. Agnes inspired others to become involved in the advice field in which she worked and to accomplish their goals and dreams. Always striving to maintain a high standard of work, from fellow advisors and herself. Agnes' involvement in helping others through her work at BLAC and other organisations within her community made a difference to the lives of thousands of people. Agnes never paid any regard to the thousands of extra hours she put in at both her office and at home.

In a word, Agnes Smith was Blackbird Leys Advice Centre. Agnes helped bring the Advice Centre through many problematic periods, with her hard work, knowledge and dedication. The centre developed from one shared room in the Church of the Holy Family to its present location.

During her time as manager and co-ordinator of the Advice Centre, Agnes was able to provide training and support to many. As a result many people were able to gain enough experience to obtain paid employment within the advice field and other careers.

Agnes will be greatly missed by many people, especially her work colleagues, the management committee and the local community.

Agnes will live on not only through her contribution locally, but also for the work she gave to other organisations throughout England. The advice centre has been renamed the Agnes Smith Advice Centre in her honour.

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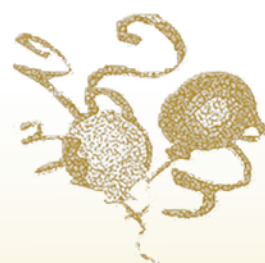
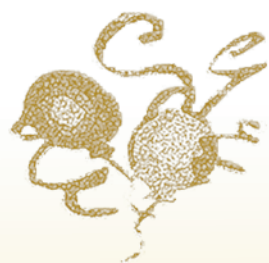
NASH'S BAKERY



Blackbird Leys' Family Baker & Confectioner

Beautiful & Delicious Hand Made Birthday & Celebration Cakes

Treat that special person
to a cake from Nash's



**Come along to our shop in Blackbird Leys and see our cake
photo album or let us know your ideas for a cake.**

Nicky and her Staff are always more than happy to help.

Blackbird Leys Looking back

*your stories
writings
photographs
memories
impressions*

Originally built on Sawpit Farm and the sewage works Blackbird Leys is approaching its fiftieth year of existence. In anticipation of this Leys News is pleased to announce a new social history project - 'Blackbird Leys - Looking Back'

The Roman road known as the Street turned into Blackbridge Lane, which became Blackbridge Leaze and eventually to Blackbird Leys Farm, which gave its name to the new estate in the fifties.

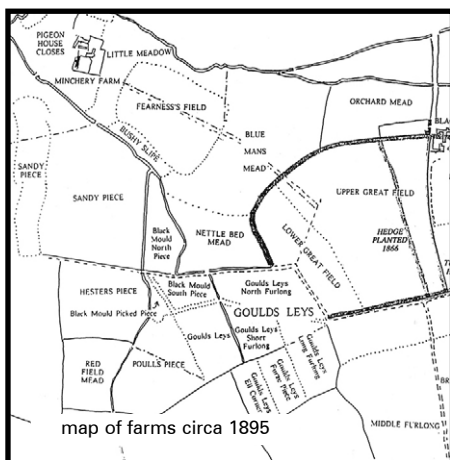
By September 1958 ten families were living on Sandy Lane.

The Cowley car factory had 625 recorded strikes in 1969 and dominated local employment through most of the period.

The first Blackbird Leys festival in 1964 lasted nine days.

These are a few memories from the rich history of Blackbird Leys, but what other stories can people tell?

'Blackbird Leys - Looking Back' will let people share their stories. Starting in January we will be will be collecting written material and



images for publication in future issues.

We'd like to hear from residents of Blackbird Leys, of whatever age or background, who have something to say or would like to join with others to explore reminiscences.

Ruskin College's writer in residence Eva Salzman has expressed interest in working with groups on the Leys to help develop this oral history.

Interested? Maybe you have some photos of early residents or events? Please let us know, we'd like to see what's out there. See contact details on page 2.

Thanks to 'The Changing Faces of Blackbird Leys' by Carole Newbigging.

Out of Tune



Related to the history of Blackbird Leys is a newly published book 'Out of Tune' by Roy Gatehouse. It chronicles his time at the Leyland car factory between the late fifties and the early nineties. It goes into some detail about his experiences on the factory floor in the tuning department - hence the title. The author has a lot to say about the often irresponsible and wreckless tactics adopted by some of the militant shop stewards. He stood up for his beliefs and challenged the status quo by standing as a shop steward, making himself unpopular at times. Roy's story adds another dimension to the history of the troubled times at the factory.

The book is available from the author himself price £9.95, Roy Gatehouse can be reached on Oxford 240424.

PEEP



Offers all families with babies and young children in the Leys, Rose Hill and Littlemore ideas and activities to support very young children's learning. Families can have their free PEEP 'Learning Together' materials - videos, song tapes and packs delivered to their home. They can also come to a local weekly group, to try out different activities and share ideas.

If you want to try out a PEEP plus group in January, PEEP will help you to make a record of the things you do together. The sessions last for two hours and there are ten sessions. There's more time for adults to talk together while the children play. You can brush up on your own skills and find out about other courses in your area.

There's also a free day trip included in the course.

Peep groups on the Leys happen at the Health Centre, Holy Family Church Hall, Orchard Meadow School, the Clockhouse, the Dovecote and Windale School. During term times only. For full information phone Janet Cross at PEEP on 395145.

ACCAN gives out their own OSCARS

The first community Oscar-style awards ceremony was held at the Community Centre on Saturday 26 October. It was organised by the African Caribbean Community Action Network.. Individuals from the black community were nominated for their positive contributions to education, music, sport, art and many other categories. The event was opened by Cora Spencer, ACCAN's co-chair and compered by Geno Humphrey and Dolcie Obhiozele. After dinner the awards were made, too numerous to mention here except that the final award 'Family of the Year' went to the Obhiozele family. Cora Spencer ended the ceremony with a plea for more people to get involved, to help with organising and to generate ideas; and the hope that the awards can become an annual event.

ACCAN Fundraising Dance

Blackbird Leys
Community Centre
Saturday 21 December
Tickets at £5 available from
ACCAN on 467050

Anyone who is interested in getting more information about the posts can call Steve Kilsby at the City Council - 252087.

Street wardens are coming...

Think of wardens and what do you think of? Traffic wardens, air raid wardens or neighbourhood wardens maybe, but not this new breed called street wardens. Yet they will be arriving and visible on the streets of Blackbird Leys, Greater Leys, Littlemore and Rose Hill from January. A three year government initiative will put nine wardens on the streets to assist with problems of crime and anti-social behaviour. Three have already been appointed and more are being recruited. Training will be undertaken in-house by the Thames Valley Police. According to Steve Kilsby, (Oxford City Council's Neighbourhood Services Manager and the person responsible for overseeing the initiative locally) "They will be acting as eyes and ears in the community, they're not police officers and have no special powers of arrest, but they will be in radio contact with police and other authorities and will be able to call for help when needed." He added that the wardens will be council employees and work full-time and part-time shifts up to 10pm, seven days a week. They will have their own recognizable uniforms and be mostly on foot. Street wardens will soon become a familiar sight on our streets and it will be their job to get to know their local communities.

Let's grow!

Plans to establish and develop a community garden on land in Gillian's Park are under way thanks to the efforts of the Leys Residents Association and others. The City Council has agreed on the site and the campaign has so far raised £20,000 towards the garden's development.

People are encouraged to join the project, whether that's to help design, to dig or to lend some expertise in the growing department. Listen out for a 'Challenge Aneka' style challenge on Radio Oxford soon. The first tasks will be to lay out paths to break the garden site into 'bite size' chunks, making it more manageable. To get in touch contact Enid Foster at the Leys Linx office on 402070.

The community garden campaign is one of two currently being run by the Leys Residents Association. The other

is the push to get a health centre for Greater Leys, and there's some movement on this. Look out for news soon.

The LRA is keen for new people to get involved, to come to a meeting or to join its committee. If you live anywhere in Greater Leys or Falcon Close you can join. The association has a monthly meeting at the Clockhouse on the second Tuesday of each month. The next one's a Christmas get together on Tuesday 10 December, from 6.30 to 8pm. There'll be a good spread of food and it's all free. Why not?

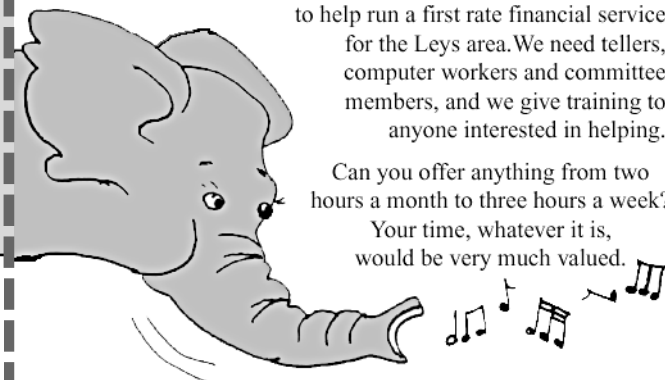
Blackbird Leys Credit Union Ltd

is a local voluntary organisation, serving the people of Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys.

Like banks, we provide a service for saving and for borrowing when you want to, but we're volunteer-led and most of the workers are volunteers.

We're looking for volunteers to help run a first rate financial service for the Leys area. We need tellers, computer workers and committee members, and we give training to anyone interested in helping.

Can you offer anything from two hours a month to three hours a week? Your time, whatever it is, would be very much valued.



If you're interested in helping, whether you're a member or not yet a member ring 718503. Leave a message if there isn't someone there to answer your call. Or call around to one of the collections in the Leys Linx Centre (at the Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road)

Mondays 10 - 11 am
Tuesdays 7 - 7:30 pm
Saturdays 10:30 - 11:30 am.

The Credit Union and the Leys Linx Centre are funded by the government's Single Regeneration Budget through SEEDA (South East of England Development Agency).

TEN YEARS ON THE CORNER - CUDDESDON CORNER CELEBRATES

Dozens of helium filled balloons soared away into the evening sky over Blackbird Leys on 14 October, to mark the tenth anniversary of Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre. The balloons have by now been dispersed by the four winds. Someone out in the world will find one sooner or later and wonder what Cuddesdon Corner is all about.

The celebrations were attended by many centre users, both young and old, and included a party, children's dance, delicious food from around the world and a special anniversary cake.

A brief history

Sitting on the corner of Cuddesdon Way and Sawpit Road, the centre, which comprises two former police houses, which were derelict for five years, opened its doors as a family centre on October 14 1992. The family centre was created when its predecessor at Merlin Road outgrew its space.

Resource centre plan for 'eyesore' houses



Centre manager Pete Welply, who has been there since the first day, sat down with *Leys News* to review its first ten years.

From the outset the centre was a family support project open to all on the Leys, offering an open door for families, putting on group activities, going on trips, hosting outside groups and offering crèche support.

Early days

Initially managed by Social Services the centre has seen many changes and developments over the years. There have been ups and downs,



cut backs and changes in staffing levels, reflecting the ebb and flow of funding fortunes. At its peak the centre employed seven family centre workers, two crèche workers, a cook and maintenance person. Today there are four family centre workers plus other support staff. It has also worked hard to counter the stigma attached to both the social services connection and the police association. Earlier this year responsibility for the centre changed to the Early Year and Childcare section at the County Council. It is now part of the life long learning ethos promoted by the county. This should make it easier to raise funds to develop and expand the facilities offered by the centre.

Blitz here

Cuddesdon Corner is a partner in the BLITZ project (see page 3). This means that it offers free basic computer training for absolute beginners and internet access for people to shop on line and send and receive email.

Pete Welply sees the centre as a place where people can meet and share experiences of parenting in a non-threatening atmosphere. He says "The centre is not a place

referred to, it is completely open access."

Pete Welply also played an important role in the Community Development Initiative (CDI) from 1995 when they succeeded in getting regeneration money to run the Under Eights project. Unfortunately this did not succeed in getting lottery funding in 1999 - 2000 to enable it to continue. The centre has also played an important role in the development of family centres in Oxfordshire.

Other groups

Current family centre workers are Claire Johnson, Debbie Scrivener, Marie Macinnes and since 1990 Val Smythe. Lyn Cook is administration support worker and Daphne Dearlove is currently the crèche worker. Volunteers are always welcome, particularly for after-school and creative activities. Cuddesdon Corner has also been a place for nursery nurse students to train on placement as well as BTEC social care students and others. The Listening Centre started at the centre in 1993, offering a counselling service for local people. The service is still open and runs four sessions a week from 5.15 to 8.30pm on Mondays and 3.30 to 8.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Other organisations from the Margaret Sanders Branch of the Workers Educational Organisation to community education to the Oxford Women's Training Scheme and Peep have all held run sessions at the centre.

Looking to the future Cuddesdon Corner has outgrown its space and is looking to expand, both its building and what it offers. No doubt the changing situation with Orchard Meadow Primary School next door (opening in September 2003) will have an impact.

There's much on offer. Come and find out what's going on. Call them on 773263.



What's coming up
Monday 16 December
 1.30-2.30pm
Santa's Grotto
 bring your letters for Santa

Thursday 19 December
 3 to 6pm
Christmas Party
 food, games, raffle and carols



Pete Welply with Pat Evans. Pat was the cook at the centre for 12 years until she took early retirement after providing years of family meals.



SUMMER FUN: Claire Johnson and helpers at the anniversary party. Below, archive photo from summer activities



Dj and art culture - news from the youth centre

BARN YOUTH CLUB

The dj decks come out twice a month at the Barn. The popular Wednesday evening youth club offers young dj's the chance to have a go and get expert tips from practising dj's. They also run dj competitions. The club which runs from 7 to 9 in the evening also has computer sessions, a tuck shop and more.



Look out for the Blue Room sessions once a month on a Friday evening at the youth centre. Live dj's & mc's

Mural painters on the wall

The guerrilla artists are getting back together to decorate the outside of the youth centre, on the side wall facing the Blackbird. Contact Katy at the Youth Centre on 772886.



Artwork by Odain Sinclair

Youth action on the Leys

Monday 6-9pm CK STREET DANCE Youth club gym

Tuesday

12.30-1.30 BODY ZONE Doorway, Peers School (term time only)
 4-5pm OCEG homework club (exclusive use of BLITZ afterwards)

Wednesday

1-4.30pm THE EDGE drop in session Community Centre
 4.30 - 6pm OCEG homework club
 7.30-9.30 THE EDGE youth club session
 7-9pm AREA YOUTH CLUB the Barn
 dj sessions December 4 and 18

Thursday

9-12 CHANGE ALL THAT. Young women's art group
 8-9.30 SMALL CHANGES the edge women's project
 6-8pm ART AND DESIGN youth drop in session

Friday

8.30 - 10.30pm THE BLUE ROOM live dj's and mc's once a month nearest to 20th.



Phone Katy on 772886 for the Edge. For OCEG information call Dolcie on 778250. A new programme is available every month Pick one up at the Youth Centre.

Blackbird Leys Summer Project 2002

A big, big thankyou to all the young people, staff and workshop leaders who took part in HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU! The summer project, co-ordinated by the Leys Community Development Initiative, ran from August 5 to 16.

Two weeks of non-stop activities ranging from tai chi, street sports, street dance and music production through to the drama and video project ended with a brilliant performance on the Friday, and it was definitely HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU!

Marsha Jackson



THE WITCHES NASH THEIR TEETH: Draculette, the She-Devil, Winnie the Witch, the Wicked Witch, and Grotbags all came out to play at Halloween. The staff at Nash's Bakery like to get dressed up. Look out for the Wizard of Oz around Christmas.



Carl Jameson, keen volunteer at Leys Linx produced a poster at the Blitz project.



Annabelle Cantwell (3) winner of the fancy dress competition at this September's Leys Fair.

Blackbird Leys Community Centre



CMS Bar

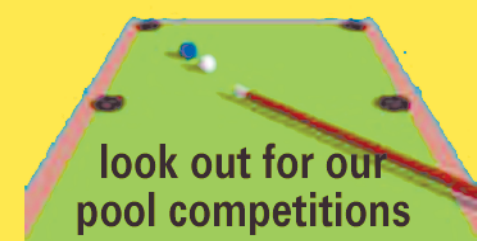
Your family friendly neighbourhood social club. Good food, sports on wide screen tv and more

opening hours

Monday 6 - 11
Tuesday 6 - 11
Wednesday 11- 11
Thursday 6 - 11
Friday 11 - 11
Saturday 11 - 4
Sunday 12 - 10.30

Have you joined yet?

new members always welcome
 only £3 a year to join
 £1.50 senior citizens



look out for our pool competitions

Xmas Day Party with DJ Col £2 adults £1 children
 food, drink, music, entertainment all day to midnight

New Year's Eve Party by ticket only - party til 3am

call 777162 for further information

Home-Start Oxford needs volunteers



We are a voluntary home visiting scheme offering support and friendship to families with young children.

Could you befriend a family struggling with early parenthood?

Free preparation course and ongoing support.

Home-Start also runs a drop-in group for first time parents at the Dovecote on Friday mornings from 10.30 until 12 noon, during term time. for further details please contact Home-Start on 779991

GREENFINGERS Making a meal out of flowers

Eating flowers is not as obscure as you may think. Consider that we eat broccoli and cauliflower with a second glance for they are essentially unopened flower buds.



Many people are aware that nasturtium flowers can be unusual additions to the salad bowl, but people are generally not adventurous enough to explore other flowers, which is strange when we consume most other parts of plants.

Recent research appears to indicate that the brightest colours in vegetables and fruit have positive health advantages, so it could be the same with brightly coloured flower petals. Agreed, flowers wouldn't be enough for a meal in themselves, but

the same can be said for many herbs. Flowers can make a meal look stunning, and give an exceptional flavour. Generally only the most colourful parts of petals should be eaten. Remove all white petal bases and any central stamens. It's important to only eat the correct part of the petals in case you are allergic to the plant. Eating petals is unlikely to cause a reaction though.

Preparing petals is often a fiddle and a labour of love. Just wash them quickly, or their attractiveness will be lost. Consume them quickly too, as they rarely store for long. If you are wary of experimenting try eating flowers from common herbs, which often taste like the remainder of the plant. Then try rose petals and other flowers to enhance the most basic meal. When you get confident you'll devise

other ways of using flowers and buds. They can be used not only in salads, but made into crystallised sweets, wine, fritters and even beer. With petals being high in scent, they often give drinks an enchanting bouquet.

In summer and early autumn, clover will be found in full bloom in grassy places. It is often grown for fodder and cultivated in meadows to add nitrogen to the soil, but it can also be eaten. The young sumptuous leaves and fully open flowers can be washed and consumed fresh in salads. If you gather enough, try boiling them like spinach. Maybe try drying the flowers, they c



be infused in boiling water

make tea. Red clover is sweeter, white clover can be bitter. If you can find a common lime tree in a local park, and you can reach their fully opened flowers, try drying them and making another soothing tea. Lime flowers can also be used to make some of the finest honey known. Young leaves of lime can be eaten raw in salads too. If you are really intrepid, try finding some unopened flower buds from a common broom in a woodland. Pickled in vinegar, they can be used like capers.

Go on, give it a go. But don't pick anything from the wild if it is not obviously common to where you find it. That way this new found food source will be available for another year.

STUART MABBUTT
Next time: ground cover

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY BLACKBIRD LEYS

Sun 22 December 6.30pm Carol service

Christmas Eve 24 December 3pm
Crib service

Christmas Eve 24 December 11.30pm
Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25 December 10 am
Holy Communion and family service

Saturday 7 December 10 am - 1pm
Church Bazaar in the Church Hall

Sacred Heart Church

Christmas and New Year services
Friday 13 December 7pm
Advent penitential service in
preparation for Christmastide

Christmas Eve 24 December 11.30pm
Sung Christmas carols preceding
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am
Solemn Mass of the Lord's Nativity

New Year's Day 11am
Solemn Mass to celebrate the feast of
Mary, the mother of God

Leys Community Church

The Church has been meeting two Sundays a month as well as helping to run a number of community projects on Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys. The church has just launched weekly Sunday afternoon meetings at the Leisure Centre, starting at 3.30pm. These meetings are informal and relaxed and include special activities for children and discussion

NEW YOUTH WORKER

The Leys Youth programme began three years ago when Christian and Jo Demaine-Stone were approached by groups concerned about the lack of organised activities for young people on Greater Leys. The **Leys Youth Football Club** was started. Around 60 young people between the ages of 8 and 18 now regularly attend the football club which runs three separate training sessions. A Sunday League team for young people 'graduating' from the club has started this season and a football club for girls is beginning in January with a former England international women's team footballer as the coach.

Kidz Klub was developed in July 2000 to compliment the football club. The fast-moving monthly Saturday morning club includes team games, modern multimedia presentations,

groups for young people. The community projects supported by the church include the New Ol'Leys Lunch Club, which meets in the Dovecote on a Monday and the Leys Youth programme. It's a church for people living in and around the Leys. If you'd like to know any details about the church then please feel free to phone Richard and Kate Colbrook on 714153. Anyone is welcome to go along to the Sunday meetings at the Leisure Centre.

lively music and loads of fun. The Leys Youth Programme also runs mid-week mentoring groups for over 40 young people. These offer group support, advice and relationship counselling, within an atmosphere of care and friendship. All of the projects have a clear ethos of welcoming all young people irrespective of their background, gender, ability or religious belief.

Jo Demaine-Stone sadly died of cancer in August. Christian, along with a team of volunteers, is continuing the work. He has just taken up the post of the Leys Youth Programme's first full-time youth worker. The post has been funded by donations from a number of charitable groups including the Leys Community Church and the Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

Christian can be contacted by phone on 439660 if you'd like more information about the different projects.

The Dovecote

Dovecote Saturday Club
Every Saturday until the last
Saturday in March 2003
£1.25 per child per session
10 am until 1 pm

Dovecote
Afterschool Club
Monday to Thursday
3.15 pm until 4.45 pm
(Term time only)
50p per child per session



NEW FACILITY FOR ALL

In the Dovecote office we now offer Drop in I.T sessions for all ages. Come along and surf the world wide web, learn new word-processing skills, make your own cards, letterheads and much more.

Call Carol on Oxford
712299
to arrange a time to call in



COMMUNITY
FUND

The Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is supported by the Lottery Community Fund

PLAYWORKER REQUIRED

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

Pay: £4.66 per hour

Hours: Term-time 3 - 5.15pm,
Mon to Fri (12.5 hours per week)

All school holidays
9.45am - 4.15pm,
Mon to Fri (32.5 hours/week)

Duties:

Assisting the Play Leader in running play activities for the children, setting up and clearing away after sessions, attending team meetings to help plan the activities, and helping provide a safe, stimulating and fun environment for the children to be in!

To apply: contact Becky Hattersley on 01865 747704 or pop in to the B.L.A.P. building, 1 Cuddesdon Way for more details and an application form.

On Friday 20th December we will be open from 1pm to 6.30pm,
christmas disco from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. All are welcome!

Plug into music

What is it?

A series of music projects, some in the holidays and some in term time. The workshops cover DJ mixing skills, vocal and lyric writing, music and midi technology and live instrument skills.

Who is it for?

Different groups of young people.

The first project happened in the summer and the second is currently running with eight young people aged between 9 and 13.

Lots of people have had a go at making music in the past, so here is a chance to build on those skills, and to try something new.

The purpose of the workshops is to introduce and then integrate different techniques, equipment and sounds. Combining styles and the fusion of old and new technologies demonstrates how music has developed over the years.

If music is a big part of your life, and you can play an instrument, mix a tune or can use Reason or Cubase and would like to volunteer your time and skills to your community then get in touch. In return we can offer support, training, and fun, as well as satisfying role.

We can also arrange use of the extensive range of equipment. If you would like to get involved with or have any ideas for future community music projects then we'd love to hear from you. Contact Paul on 395927 or 712496.

Plug into Music is supported by the Leys CDI, The National Foundation for Youth Music and Oxfordshire Youth Service.



GETTING PLUGGED IN: musicmakers Miles Glen, Trisha Elphinstone and Mikee Jay-stone, Participants Kyrion Edmead, Calvin Welch, Lyndon Scivener, Hiron Brown, Callum Spencer, Kris Morton and Hezakiah

The next **Plug into Music**

starts on **Thursday**
9 January 2003.

An **8 week** course for
14 to 16 year olds.

You will need to do all **8 weeks.**

It costs only **50p** per week.

There are only **8 places** so to
book your place, **contact Paul**
on 395927 or 712496.

or pop in to the youth centre
between 3 and 5 on a
Thursday afternoon.

Windfall for Windale



Windale School news

Congratulations to reception teacher Joseph Ruba who recently won the regional contest for the outstanding new teacher of the year. Nominated by parents for his inspiring and fresh creative approach Joseph's award won £2500 for the school which was used to buy outdoor play equipment.

Crime stoppers

Musician David Graham spent a day with year five students from Windale and Pegasus Schools showing a positive image of life without drugs. The students had a really enjoyable day with competitions, prizes and music.

Traffic survey reaps rewards

New school signs were the first result of a presentation by students at Windale to County Councillors of their traffic survey. More action for safety outside the school has been promised. Student power delivers.

Blackbird Leys Parish Council

Parish Council needs you

The Parish Council is actively looking for new councillors who want to make a difference by taking on one of the portfolios of local issues and concerns on the Leys.

By switching to a portfolio approach four months ago, we have had some major successes relating to crime, health, housing, recreation, refuse and the environment.

We are looking for individuals who want to make a difference in the area they live in, and take pride in what Blackbird Leys has to offer now and in the future.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings to voice their views and opinions, on the first Tuesday of the month at the Leys Linx Centre at the Community Centre on Blackbird Leys Road at 7.30pm.

Come along and make a difference, your opinion matters and it should be heard. If you like what you see and want to take an active role, we will tell you how easy it is to become a Blackbird Leys Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council now has a website, thanks to Brian Lester it's at www.blackbirdleys.co.uk

Phone 734346 for further information.

Letters to Leys News

SPINDLEBERRY NATURE RESERVE

Many years ago children from this estate took part in a tree planting scheme to try to turn a piece of semi-wasteland into a nature park. The purpose was to let school children see for themselves the variety of wildlife that it was hoped would eventually settle.

There are several streams and brooks that run through the wood, which are inhabited by various forms of wildlife including kingfishers. If you walk through the park there are ducks which you can feed. The main pond has recently been partially cleared and most of the unwanted debris has been removed. With the co-operation of the people who frequent the area it will stay that way.

Unfortunately one of the streams continues to be polluted with household fats and grease, encouraging rats to breed while killing off other mammals. This letter is a plea to local people not to put this type of pollution down their sinks, and not to vandalise the trees in the nature park. Perhaps if we act now the wildlife will return and begin to thrive once more.

Brian Lester - Pegasus Road

Want to get something off your chest? Send a letter to Leys News.

Blackbird Leys Allotment Association

Cultivated plots at Kestral Crescent.

Ring 434476 or 438696



Rosemary Conley
Diet and Fitness Clubs

Lose weight in all the right places
at your local Rosemary Conley class

The ONLY slimming club that offers diet AND exercise in ONE class at one great value price!

St. Swithuns Church Hall, Kennington Road, Kennington

Monday 9.45 am - 11.15 am

St. Peter and St. Pauls' Church Hall, West Way, Botley

Monday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Oxford School, Glanville Road, Cowley

Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm & 7.30 - 9.00 pm

Cowley Conservative Club, 19 Between Towns Road, Cowley

Wednesday 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm

St. Michaels C.E. FIRST School, Marston Road, Marston

Wednesday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Wolvercoate Primary School, first Turn, Wolverhampton STARTS 8/01/03 ★

Wednesday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

BECKLEY VILLAGE HALL, BECKEY

Thursday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

STARTS 9/01/03 ★

United Reform Church Hall, Collinwood Road, Headington

Thursday 6.30 - 8.00 pm & 8.00 - 9.30 pm

Sandford Village Hall, Henley Road, Sandford on Thames

Friday 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm

The Barn, Nightingale Ave, Greater Leys,

Sunday 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Call Edda on 01865 777861

Membership Pack £6.99 class Fee £4.50

www.rosemary-conley.co.uk/clubs

**2 NEW CLASSES
STARTING
JANUARY**

**Sensational new Eat Yourself slim Diet & fitness plan PLUS.....
FREE motivational tape worth £7.99 when you join
your local Rosemary Conley class**

BLACKBIRD LEYS LIBRARY NEWS

CHRISTMAS CLOSING TIMES

NOON TUES 24 DECEMBER UNTIL
9AM THURSDAY 2 JANUARY
Extra books can be borrowed.

ALL CHANGE!

The New Year will see big and exciting changes for the Library. Following a successful bid to the Learning and Skills Council, we will be joining together to work with the Able Learning Centre. Building work will start around February and the library will need to close for a short period, to construct a mezzanine floor.

However we will be able to re-open and offer a service in part of the building during the rest of the build. Look out for more information in the library nearer the time.

STORYTIME

We will be holding a New Year storytime on Thursday 2 January for the under 10's, from 2 to 3pm, so if you are bored of your Christmas presents already why not come along. It's free and tickets will be available from the library.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DEBBIE WALKER
Library Manager

AGE RESOURCE DESK at the CLOCKHOUSE

The Age Resource Desk is a modern suite of computers available to use on a 'drop in' basis or for individual sessions with a volunteer trainer. It is run by Age Concern Oxfordshire. Older people use the desk for whatever they wish - searching the internet, sending emails to friends and family, producing greetings cards, and playing games! The desk is a friendly place to come - there is no need for people to worry, even if they know nothing about computers. As clients become more experienced there is a scanner (for transferring photographs to the computer), a webcam (which enables people to see someone on another computer anywhere in the world), and a digital camera to learn more about. Several clients are now volunteers, helping more people learn. Dayalji Pattni, below, began at the Age Resource Desk 18 months ago. He now helps others find out about the internet and email, 'to put something back in' to the desk which helped him.



There are sessions available where users can practice on their own, but ask for help if needed.

This is popular with people taking a course who don't have a computer at home and wish to practice what they have learnt. Many clients also have one to one sessions, learning at their own pace about areas of computing that interest them.

Recently the Age Resource Desk linked up via the internet to Abingdon Guildhall. Age Concern Oxfordshire were holding a Volunteers Day and they chatted to Cllr Audrey Tamplin, Mayor of Abingdon and participants from all over the country on Age Concern's chat room - Baby Boomer Bistro www.bbb.org.uk

Wesley Smith from Central News hosted, and provided commentary to those present.

If you know of anyone who would like to learn more about computers or would like to volunteer to help others please contact Richard or Caroline on 717614.



Becky Willis from Ealing Family Housing Association,
Diana Law, Roy and Janet Simmonds



HOMES TO LET AT POTTERS COURT

POTTERS COURT, ROBIN PLACE, FRYS HILL, OXFORD

Potters Court is a housing scheme for people over 55 years



Flats are on the ground, first and second floors, with a lift to the first and second floors

Features in each flat include

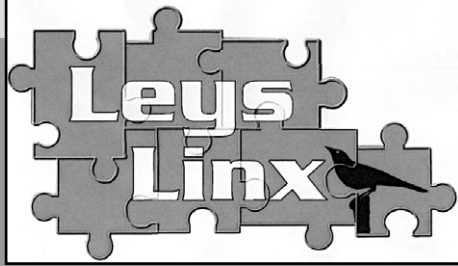
- * Your own entrance off a carpeted corridor
- * Fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob and fridge-freezer
- * Gas central heating
- * Carpet in the living room, hall and bedroom
- * Vinyl flooring in the kitchen and bathroom
- * All flats are connected to the community alarm system
- * Video door entry system to each flat

And there's also a laundry room, a comfortable communal lounge, communal activities, assisted bathroom, guest suite for residents visitors and communal gardens.



A sheltered scheme officer manages Potters Court and maintains daily contact with residents from Monday to Friday. This helps older people to live independently.

If you would like to find out more about Potters Court please contact the Farmhouse on 712244 or write to us at the Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 5BU



The Leys Linx Centre

(Formerly the Shopfront)

At Blackbird Leys Community Centre

Wide range of services including:

- **The Leys Credit Union**
- **BLITZ** (free access to computers)
- **Information Advice and Guidance Service (IAG)** - offers advice about training opportunities and how to access them.
- **Blackbird Leys Advice Centre** - surgeries on a wide range of benefit issues.
- **Oxfordshire Housing Aid** and the **Oxford Mediation Service** - will soon be running regular sessions.
- **Training venue** - local people using the centre say that it is a comfortable and relaxed environment.
- **Information exchange** - this is being developed to help local people find the services they need.

Information exchange day

Leys Linx Centre,

Saturday 7 December, 10 - 4

Find out what is happening at the Centre. See the kind of information we hold about local and city wide services and give your ideas about plugging the gaps. You are invited to drop in on the day. You will get a warm welcome!

For more information please contact Enid on 402070.

Community Chest

The Community Chest Panel has allocated £5,000 to a wide range of community and voluntary groups so far this year. See the next Leys News to find out how the money was spent.

We have a winner!

Back in the summer we circulated a questionnaire asking for local views about the proposed Neighbourhood Nursery for the Leys.

Thanks to everyone who completed it, and congratulations to Michelle De Costa from Moorbank who won the £50 prize. A number of people felt that the nursery could offer a much needed service to people who want to return to work, especially if places will be partly funded by Working Family Tax Credits.

The Oxford, Swindon and Gloucester Co-op hope to run the nursery. A local Neighbourhood Nursery steering group meets regularly.

If you want to attend or to get more information please contact Phil Powell on 396392 or Carol Jenkins on 249241.

Lots and lots!

There is lots happening on the Leys, with a number of new initiatives and programmes.

The Community Get-Together on Thursday 21st November provided an opportunity to hear about them. If you need any information you can phone: **BLITZ:**

Sasha Vanderhyde: 714492

Community Response to Drugs:

Phil Powell 396392

Crime Retail Initiative:

Val Johnson 249811

Healthy Living Initiative:

Maggie Dent 249811

Neighbourhood Nursery:

Carol Jenkins 249241

Neighbourhood Wardens:

Steve Kilsby 249811

Primary Care Trust LIFT Programme:

Sarah Breton 226576

Sports England Project focusing on

women from ethnic minority groups:

Debbie McIlveen 249811

Training Opportunities Project funded

by the European Social Fund:

Lorraine Ritchins 759650

or Phil Powell 396392

Meet Father Christmas

Christmas party

Saturday 12 December

Leys Linx Centre, 2 - 4

Geared towards under 10's. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments and chance to meet Father Christmas.

Tickets are limited, so first come, first served. Ring Enid Foster.

Networking

Over 20 paid and unpaid workers on the Leys attended a networking day in September. We agreed that there is a lot going on locally but that we need to improve how we share information, communicate and co-ordinate services. A number of practical suggestions were made which Leys Linx will take forward in 2003.

For more information contact Phil on 396392.

Childcare training takes off!

An 18-month diploma in Pre-School Practice was launched in October. This is aimed at people who work in childcare and is run by Leys Linx and EASOCEC. It is based at the Leys Linx Centre and has attracted a high proportion of participants from the Leys. There was so much interest that some people had to be turned away because the course was full.

Further childcare courses at various levels are being planned in the New Year. For more information contact Pam Coleman at EASOCEC on 727148, or Melodie Pedley at the Leys Linx Centre on Tuesday afternoons on 402070.

Get fit!

The Sports England Project is geared towards encouraging girls and women from ethnic minorities to get more involved in sports. It has been going six months. The diet and fitness club and the dance group are now well established. A range of sports and training tasters have taken place and there is lots of scope for developing further activities, with funding available.

For more information contact Serena on 396392.

Building up confidence

You may have seen a fabulously colourful tree, painted by local artist Karen Godwin, at the Leys Fair. It's leaves were post-its on which people wrote down their ideas about having a local market, selling a range of fresh fruit, vegetables and other produce. This innovative, different and fun approach to consultation came out of a new course which Leys Linx run with Ruskin College. Congratulations to all the local people who did the course in the Summer and worked so hard to get their Level 2 certificates.

Around 12 participants are now doing the follow-on course "building up our confidence to get involved in the Community". This builds on the success of previous training in community work skills, and encouraging participation. It is around 3 hours a week, is held at the Barn, and is being co-led by local people who have done previous courses.

We hope to run a similar course in the New Year. It is aimed at two groups: people working on the Leys (paid or volunteering), and people who could use the training to help them in daily life (e.g. as a parent or carer). If you are interested please contact Phil Powell on 396392, or course tutor Pippa Bobbett on 777297

Learning on the Leys

What has Europe ever done for us? (Remember Monty Python's Life of Brian?) Well, it supported a number of big projects on the Leys in the mid 90's, and now the European Social Fund is giving us money towards lifelong learning.

The project will start in the New Year. It will find out what individuals, community groups and volunteers want to learn, and point them towards existing training or develop more from scratch. There will be taster sessions and courses leading to certificates.

A number of areas have been suggested - business administration; confidence building; childcare and child psychology; digital photography; drugs awareness; food hygiene; food intolerances; fundraising; history including local, family and black history; and returning to study, study skills and access courses.

Suggestions to help people get more out of community activities or groups include courses on area committees; managing money; volunteering; and developing community gardens, art, craft, I.T and web design.

The project can be flexible and respond to what local people want. If there is any training that you would like to do please contact Phil Powell at Leys Linx on 396392, or Lorraine Ritchins at Ruskin College on 759650. *This project is supported by the Learning and Skills Council and will involve the Leys Linx Training and Support Group.*

'Business Boffins'

This organisation is working with Leys Linx offering mentoring and support to small businesses, community enterprises and sole traders on the Leys estate. A number of local start-ups and businesses are taking advantage of this support. Could they help your new business be more successful? If so please ring Phil Powell on 396392.

PART-TIME COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER

18.5 hours per week

£16,371 - £21,921 (pro-rata)



The aim of this post is to support the Leys Linx SRB Partnership Board to:

- **enhance the capacity of local people and community groups to manage, develop and resource projects**
- **promote local involvement in community activities and decision making**
- **support specific projects over the lifetime of the Scheme**

You will need good community development skills, and at least 1 year's experience of working on a paid or voluntary basis in a community setting.

The post will report to the SRB Scheme Manager and will be based at Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

Fixed term contract to 31 March 2004

For an application form please contact: Anna Davidson on 249811

To discuss the post please contact: Phil Powell on 396392

Closing date for applications will be: 13/12/2002



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from 7am to 10pm

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Leys SPAR Ltd * Dunnock Way * Blackbird Leys * Oxford * OX4 7EX

Your elected representatives

Member of Parliament - Oxford East

Andrew Smith - Labour

4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
772893

Surgeries held first Friday each month at Barton Neighborhood Centre 3-3.45
Princes St 4.15-5.30
Rose Hill Community Centre 6-7
Third Friday each month rolling surgery around the constituency, including Blackbird Leys. Please call for precise times and locations.

City councillors

Blackbird Leys ward

Cllr Val Smith - Labour

4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
772893

mobile 07767 446051

Cllr Pat Stannard - Labour

31 Green Hill OX4 7UD -
777433

Northfield Brook ward

Cllr Molly Florey - Labour

122 Sandy Lane Oxford OX4 6AS
712620

Cllr Stuart Craft

Independent Working Class Association
07733 274324

stuart@bliwca.fsnet.co.uk

County councillor - Blackbird Leys

Cllr Barbara Gatehouse - Labour

33 Salford Rd Oxford OX3 0RY
240424

Councillors surgeries

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Saturdays - all 11 to 12

7 December Pat Stannard

14 December Molly Florey

21 December Val Smith

4 January Pat Stannard

11 January Molly Florey

18 January Pat Stannard

25 January Pat Stannard

1 February Molly Florey

8 February Val Smith

15 February Pat Stannard

22 February Molly Florey

1 March Val Smith

26 Kingfisher Green - Saturdays

(located on Jack Argent Close, home of Leys News)

7 December 10 - 11 Stuart Craft

14 December 11- 12 Molly Florey

21 December 10 -11 Stuart Craft

18 January 11 - 12 Molly Florey

8 February 11- 12 Molly Florey

15 March 11 - 12 Molly Florey



Andrew Smith



Val Smith



Pat Stannard



Molly Florey



Stuart Craft



Barbara Gatehouse

Services

Abandoned vehicles If on public land call 252942

Bulk rubbish collection
725912

Dialability (Disability helpline) 791818

Dog nuisance - call the dog warden on 252914. Out of hours 240924.

Fridges/freezers
free collection 252936

Garden refuse Green waste sacks 50p each. Call 725912. Better still compost your own.

Junk mail - to stop receiving unsolicited mail write to FREEPOST 22, London W1E. Free service

Noise pollution 252556

Pavement hazards (eg uneven surfaces) 747390

Pest control 252384

Pollution in streams and rivers call 0800 807060

Street lighting to report faulty lights call freephone 0800 317802

Syringe collection 249811

Trading standards 815000

Local organisations

Accan (African-Caribbean Community Action Network) 467050

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground 747704

Blackbird Leys Advice Centre 770206

Blackbird Leys Community Centre bookings 435954
Centre manager 401098

THE BLACKBIRD LEYS TENANTS FORUM
meets on the second Monday of the month at the Housing Office on Cuddesdon Way at 7pm.
All council tenants welcome

Useful local numbers

Blackbird Leys Library

770403

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre

772886

Credit Union 773098

First Blackbird Leys Rainbow Guides 396553

Leys Linx office 396392

Leys Linx centre 402070

Oasis drop in centre for women who have experienced mental health problems. Open Mondays 5-9 and Fridays 11-3 off Cowley Road. 721472

Oxford Community Mediation
742439

Parish Council 734346

Education

Able adult basic skills centre 776334

Community Education East and South Oxford 712094

Oxford College FE
Leys campus 245871

Sports

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre 467020

Blackbird Leys swimming pool 467040

Peers Sports Centre 467095

Health

Doctors surgery 778244

Blackbird Leys Health Centre
778244

Health visitors 715689

Under 8's

Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre 773263

Dovecote Under 8's building 712299

Homestart (home visiting scheme for under 5's) 779991

The PEEP Centre (Peers Early Education Partnership) 395145

Housing

City Homes local office
3 Cuddesdon Way.
Mon - Thurs 9 to 5
Fri 9 to 4.30 467222

Ealing Family Housing Association

Elaine Partridge/Rhiannon Jones 712244 FAX 712121
The Farmhouse opening times Mon - Fri 9 - 1 and 2 - 5 except Fri 2 - 4
holiday closings
Closed all day on Monday 23 Dec. Open Christmas Eve 9 - 4pm. Closed 25 Dec to 1 January. Open from Thursday 2 January.

Oxford Citizens Housing Association

All calls through Customer Services 773000
Farmhouse office Mark Kimber / Elizabeth Naluwoza / Aida Tomolso will be open as per Ealing Family (above).
Barns Road office
Closed 4pm 24 Dec and all day 25, 26, 27 Dec
Open 30, 31 Dec 10am-3.30pm

OCHA open from Thursday 2 January

Cherwell Housing Trust

Customer Services 260555
Please refer to residents' handbook for details of emergency phone numbers etc.

Northcote Housing Association 712244

Leys Residents Association

Open to all residents in the new part of Blackbird Leys. Contact via 26 Kingfisher Green 749876

Oxford Housing Rights
free and confidential advice 247853

Police

999 - In an emergency or if you see a crime being or about to be committed.

Community beat officers
Sergeant Steve Redding.

Community Beat Office

and answer machine. For non-urgent matters, advice and information. 335138

Police Customer Services

To report incidents that do not need police attendance call 266333

Oxford Control Room

To report crime that requires the police 266000

Cowley Police Station

749909

Family Protection Unit

335200

Crimestoppers freephone

0800 555111

Fire

Oxfordshire Fire Service
helpline 719900

For more details of local groups and meetings see the monthly Leys Bulletin or pick up the Leys Community Handbook from the Farmhouse or the Leys Linx Centre.

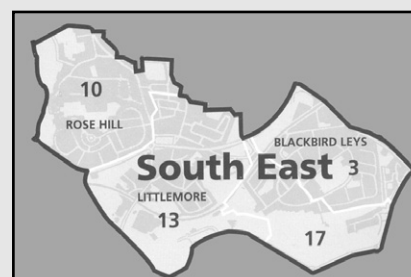
What do Area Committees do?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

- abandoned vehicles
- allotments
- car parks
- cemeteries
- community centres
- decisions on planning applications
- ditches and streams
- dog wardens
- parks and countryside management
- public toilets
- street cleaning
- street naming

South East Area Committee meetings

Ring 252249 for further information



Monday 6th
January 2003
6.30 - 9.30pm

Cardinal House Littlemore

Monday 3rd
February 2003
6.30 - 9.30pm

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

Monday 17th March 2003
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Rose Hill Community centre

Monday 7th April 2003
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Littlemore Community Centre

Oxford City Council Services - on your doorstep

This can now deal with any Council enquiry. Customer Service Officers now run the enquiry service at **Blackbird Leys Local Services Shop**, which will soon be officially launched.

If you live anywhere on the Leys you can access the Council services

Local Services Shops:

Help local people claim housing and welfare benefits
Deal with Council Tax enquiries

Provide information about the Council's housing register

Provide information about all other public/council services

Deal with housing enquiries for Oxford City Council tenants and much more, so please visit them at 3 Cuddesdon Way.

Important numbers for council tenants

0800 227676 (freephone) repairs 8am-5pm
Monday-Thursday (4.30pm Friday) and out of hours repair emergencies.

467222 Estate Management Team for general housing and garage enquiries other than home rent, allocations and repairs. Housing staff are still based at Blackbird Leys Office.

467200 Rents Team for rent or rent arrears regarding your home.

467230 Allocations Team for transfer enquiries, offers of council home, finding a mutual exchange, or for general re-housing advice, registering for social housing and nominations to Housing Associations.

Blackbird Leys Local Services Shop
3 Cuddesdon Way
Blackbird Leys OX4 6JH
Open 9am - 5pm
Monday to Thursday (4.30pm Friday)
Staff training on the last Thursday of the month, open at 10am.



Blackbirds under eights on the go



Pictured above are the Blackbirds Under 8's team at the start of the season in September. Since then the team have gone on to win four out of the seven games they have played, including a massive 16-0 victory over Cholsey at home in September. But perhaps their most impressive win was against Radley, away, when they

won 3-0. Manager Clive has organised a tour to Butlins in Minehead next May, for the team to take part in a tournament.

The other Blackbirds teams continue to do well. The Under 10's A team are top of the Red League, the Under 12's are top of the C League and the

Under 14's A team are top of the A League, unbeaten this season, having won all their games to date.

The Blackbirds are always on the look out for new managers and trainers to help out with the teams. Anyone interested should call club chairman Nigel Medlock on Oxford 453969.

Street Sport site open

Despite the rain more than 30 young people attended the official opening of Fry's Hill street sport site. They practised their skater hockey and football skills with the help of the Oxford Blues, the Skater Hockey Club and Oxford United players. Councillor Molly Florey released 300 balloons to celebrate the occasion, helped by the young people and players from Oxford United. She said, "I'm so pleased to be launching this new facility. This will give young people a place of their own to play sports safely and for free. I hope that all children in the area will come and make use of the site."

The event was supported by a grant from Awards For All and organised by the Leys Community Development Initiative.



BALLOONS GALORE: Molly Florey and a host of street sports stars at the official opening of the Fry's Hill site in September.

CMS Catering Services
at Blackbird Leys Community Centre

Good food now available

*Introducing Toni,
our new chef
who's cooking on*

**Mondays 10 - 4
Wednesdays/Fridays 10 to 5
& Sundays 12 - 6**



**bar open
7 days
a week
pool tv
join now**

what you might find at lunch time

MAIN MEALS with rice & peas or salad:-	
OXTAIL	£4.00
CHICKEN CURRY	£3.50
FRIED MACKEREL	£3.50
BBQ CHICKEN WINGS	4 for 50p
BURGER	£1.00
CHEESEBURGER	£1.10
HOT DOGS	50p
CHIPS (PORTION)	65p
BAGUETTES	
CHEESE	£1.20
PRAWN COCKTAIL	£1.40
KING RIB	£1.40
COOKIES	5p
ICED BUNS	5p
DOUGHNUTS	5p



call Toni on 777152

BLACKBIRD LEYS POOL

TEL: 467040

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